



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

not eager to listen to the new gospel, nor to let go of the well-trying policy that has given the people cheap food and the manufacturers enormous prosperity. They are inclined rather to try the effect of freeing themselves from the abuses of a land system which, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was carefully built up to the advantage of the landholders by a Parliament absolutely controlled by the landed interest. Free trade combined with free access to the land has never yet had a fair trial. The Liberals prefer to make this experiment rather than to return to a discredited theory of protection. It is certainly unfortunate for the author that the December elections in England should have failed to fulfil his anticipations of the success of tariff reform.

There is nothing hostile to England in M. Millet's volume. It is the friendly and disinterested criticism of a goodnatured onlooker.

A. G. PORRITT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Land and Labour: Lessons from Belgium. By B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1910.—xx, 633 pp.

The family Rowntree has not only been a prominent factor in the industrial supremacy of England but has also made valuable contributions to the analysis of modern economic problems. To Joseph Rowntree we owe a series of books on the liquor trade, written from the social and fiscal points of view. To B. Seeböhm Rowntree we are indebted for the well-known volume on *Poverty: A Study of Town Life*. The latter writer has now supplemented his earlier studies by the volume under review. His ultimate object is to throw light upon the problem of poverty in Great Britain by discussing its relation to the system of land tenure, and as a preliminary step he has investigated the corresponding conditions and relations in Belgium. The result is a most interesting volume. It includes the history of land tenure in Belgium; a detailed analysis of Belgian industrial conditions; an inquiry into the relative merits of large and small farms and into the division of rent between tenant and owner; a discussion of transport facilities, of taxation and of education; a description of the standard of life and of housing conditions; and, finally, a study of poverty, poor laws and unemployment. Four years of investigation have enabled Mr. Rowntree to collect a unique mass of material, which is presented with all the skill and grace of style which we have learned to expect in the works of this author. His conclusions, based on thorough study, formed with

scientific caution and weighed with sobriety of judgment, cannot but commend themselves to the careful attention of all students.

The facts he finds to be as follows. The density of population in Belgium is great, but the rate of immigration is low. The land is much divided: one out of every ten persons owns a plot, and large estates, such as are found in England, are practically non-existent. Sixty-five per cent of the agricultural population are farmers, and only thirty-five per cent laborers—just the reverse of the English ratio. Although the soil is of poor quality, the yield per acre is higher than in any other European country. The rent of land is about twice as high as in England. The state forests are relatively four times as large as in England and are growing rapidly. The system of main and light railways and of canals furnishes the best transportation in Europe. Housing conditions are on the whole satisfactory. On the other hand, while Belgium is an industrial center, the condition of its workmen is far inferior to that of the English. The standard of elementary education is low. About one-sixth of the working-class income is spent in drink. Poor relief is badly organized. Taxation, while not heavy, tends to check enterprise. On the whole however, there is less unemployment in Belgium than in Great Britain. These being the facts, what light do they throw upon the problem of poverty?

First, as to the industrial population. Wages are low, partly because the productivity of the workmen is low, partly because relatively few are engaged in the manufacture of goods of the highest quality and partly because of the weakness of the trade-union movement. In these matters England has little or nothing to learn from Belgium. The future progress of Belgium may be looked for along three lines: better factory laws and the strengthening of the trade unions; compulsory education and a higher standard of education, as well as a strengthening of the temperance sentiment; finally, a reform in the method of charitable relief, which at present saps the independence and virility of the democracy.

As regards the agricultural population, although the Belgians enjoy many advantages, the lot both of the peasant proprietor and of the tenant farmer is far from satisfactory. The immediate cause of the hardness of their lives, in the author's judgment, is not that they cannot produce enough from the soil, but that land values are so high. The cure for this, the author concludes, after a comparison with English conditions, will be found, on the one hand, in a development of industrialism, so that the agricultural laborers may have open to them the alternative of work in the towns, and, in the second place, in some

method of diffusing among the population at large a part of the unearned increment which now goes to the landowners.

The lessons which Mr. Rowntree thinks that Great Britain may draw from Belgian experience, as regards the problem of poverty, are these : (1) The land question is at the bottom of the poverty question. Steps must be taken which will make it easy for Englishmen to obtain land in small plots, either by purchase or as tenants with reasonable security of tenure. (2) Adequate means of cheap and rapid transit through the country districts must be provided. (3) Coöperative methods must be introduced into agriculture. (4) Agricultural education of a kind fitted for small holders must be provided on a liberal scale. (5) Large parts of the country must be reafforested, for the forests of Belgium "materially help to regulate the labor market and prevent unemployment." (6) Urban transit facilities must be so improved as to enable the industrial workers to live in the distant suburbs. This will revolutionize housing conditions. (7) The unearned increment of land, both rural and urban, must be utilized for social purposes.

If Mr. Rowntree's conclusions approve themselves to the British public, there is little doubt that Great Britain stands on the threshold of a gigantic economic and social transformation.

E. R. A. S.

La Question agraire en Italie : Le Latifundium romain. By PAUL ROUX. Paris, Félix Alcan, 1910.—267 pp.

The agrarian problem in Italy carries us back to the time of Spurius Cassius, who, tradition tells us, lost his life contending for the right of the Roman peasants to the use of the public lands. The struggle between plebeian and patrician for the right of pasturage, the losing battle of the small farmer against the latifundist with his horde of "speaking tools"; the heroic failure of the Gracchi to re-people the land; the completion of the ruin by the harassing tax-gatherer and the plundering barbarian—this story of strife, misery and despair has been so often told that it is familiar to even the casual student of Italy's history. But how it fares with these same fields to-day is not so well known, and M. Roux has rendered genuine service by his faithful presentation of the present agrarian problem in the province of Rome and of the efforts made to solve it.

For this study the author has chosen two contrasting districts of the province, the Agro Romano, which he defines as a region extending in all directions from Rome to a distance of from 15 to 30 miles, and a region lying just to the north of this, with the city of Viterbo as its